

High Profile

Two-Star General Visits FSU

By Sarah Marks
Managing Editor

It is very likely that Fayetteville State University students would come in contact with some of the more prestigious military leaders; however, in the past the meetings have been seldom and considerably uncommon.

Placed near the home of the 82nd Airborne Division, students should be able to easily enjoy the company and knowledge that many military leaders have to offer to undergraduate students.

FSU has seen many of those military officials this year, thanks to dedicated staff members, but with little turnout and acknowledgment.

On March 31st in the Shaw Auditorium, the Organization of Security Students (a FSU official organization) sponsored Major General John M. Custer to present a two and a half hour presentation on the necessity of intelligence studies and how it relates to the future of America.

Major General Custer is a two star general with an outstanding service record including some of the most coveted awards and numerous deployments.

He has commanded a surveillance company on the Demilitarized Zone, a signals intelligence battalion at the Nation Security Agency, and previously assigned as the Director of Intelligence Headquarters.

His long list of accomplishments, awards and previous jobs positions created a presentation full of valuable information, startling facts and unfortunate realities to the FSU crowd attending.

During his lengthy discussion, Major General Custer spoke of six main problems that affect nations worldwide: demographic trends, globalization, resource competition, weapons of mass destruction proliferation, failed and falling states, and climate change.

In addition to his six major concerns, Major General emphasized the idea that Universities must teach analytic thinking techniques instead of deteriorating mental capability with universal experiences that are enhanced by the media.

The Voice was fortunate enough to receive a brief interview with Major General Custer before the start of the presentation with only enough time for three very pressing questions on the minds of every many FSU students.

The Voice: "What advice can you offer to current military fighting the war on terrorism?"

Major General Custer: "I suggest that you read as much as you possibly can, as often as you possibly can. Take everything that you read and apply that to the real world you are faced with daily."

The Voice: "What is your perspective on the military presence in Iraq at this point?"

Major General Custer: "The real question should be will the Iraqi government actually fight for their nation? We can provide Iraq with plenty of support, but will the government sustain our efforts?"

The Voice: "Do you feel that Iraq is making progress, as suggested by President Bush?"

Major General Custer: "The IA (Iraqi Army) is not ready to take over the protection for the nation; however, they have made considerable progress. The Iraqi police are not on the same level as the IA, but we strongly believe that there will be positive changes in the future."

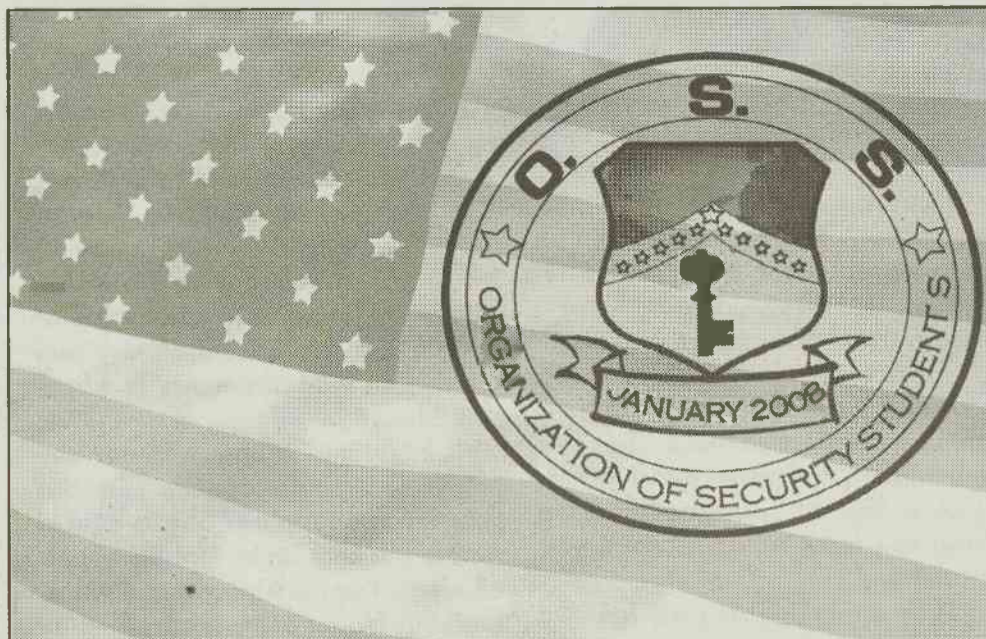
Major General Custer provides the students of Fayetteville State University with more knowledge and information than could potentially be learned in an instructional session of class.

It is incredibly important that FSU students make a special effort to attend these events in order to actively participate in the world around them.

Global terrorism, regional conflicts, economic stability and weapons of mass destruction are many of the driving forces behind U.S. Foreign Policy today.

The more students understand about international and domestic issues, the better prepared they will be for the world anxiously awaiting their graduation.

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